

**KRNV-DT & KENV-DT  
ISSUES & PROGRAMMING QUARTERLY REPORT**

**EDUCATION**

**QUARTER 2, 2016**

**Representative Weeks:**  
**April 11 through 17, 2016**  
**May 16 through 22, 2016**  
**June 13 through 19, 2016**

	<b>Duration:</b>
<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>2:00</b>
<b>News 4 @ 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>2:00</b>
<b>News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>2:00</b>
<b>News 4 @ 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>2:00</b>
<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>2:00</b>

**Date: April 11, 2016**

**Description: AACT brings home third in NASA competition**

Students from the Washoe County Academy of Arts, Careers, and Technology took a trip to Huntsville, Alabama, to compete in an international NASA competition.

This competition is called the NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge, where students create their own human powered rovers and maneuver them through a mile-long course.

"It's a chance for them to apply the knowledge they learned in engineering classes and in their medical and other classes to a hands-on experience," said Addison Wilhite, the Faculty Advisor for the AACT NASA Rover Team.

International and national high schools and universities compete, but it also helps NASA's research at the same time.

The course simulates Mars and the lunar landscapes. As the students move through it, they become part of research and development for NASA.

"So, there's a bunch of obstacles to simulate things on, like the Moon or Mars, and they're rough, you have to scream through it sometimes," said Maddie Newcombe, an athlete for the AACT NASA Rover Team.

This competition allows students to experience the technologies and concepts that will be needed in future exploration missions. Each rover consists of a team of two athletes, fabrication, welding, safety, and much more.

Seven of the nearly 30 students on the team competed this year, taking home 3rd in the high school division, and 1st place for the safety portion.

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"I never thought, ever, I would be a part of something, ever, in NASA, and now I've been given so many opportunities to do this, and so you just have to kind of put yourself out there and go for it," said Newcombe.

This program is funded by community sponsors who will either donate materials to the rover project, give expertise to students, or give money towards the annual trip.

Every year out of the six years that AACT has gone, they have taken home a top ten placement.

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<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>:45</b>
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<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:45</b>

**Date: April 13, 2016**

**Description: Group awarded \$10M to attract top charter schools to Nevada**

State officials have hired an organization that will help recruit high-quality charter school operators to expand into Nevada's neediest neighborhoods.

The Nevada Board of Examiners approved a \$10 million contract Tuesday with Opportunity 180, a group run by former state school board member Allison Serafin.

The Nevada Legislature authorized the Charter School Harbor Master program last year with some Democrats opposed. Lawmakers set aside \$10 million to contract with an organization that would then match those funds and help attract charter school operators to serve students living in poverty.

State Superintendent Steve Canavero said Tuesday that conversations with charter school operators have become more serious now that Nevada has allocated money to developing its charter school sector.

Charter schools receive public funding but operate more independently than public schools.

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	<b>Duration:</b>
<b>News 4 Today</b>	<b>1:00</b>
<b>News 4 @ 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:00</b>
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<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:00</b>

**Date: April 15, 2016**

**Description: Nevada Dept. of Education receives grant to help homeless students**

The Nevada Department of Education has received a grant of more than \$434,000 to go toward projects that help homeless students.

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According to a statement from the department, the money will be distributed to school districts for competitive grants that are authorized under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

"This funding will help increase awareness of homelessness and reduce its effects on schools and communities," Steve Canavero, state superintendent of public instruction, said in the statement. "It will help us gather valuable information, promote effective practices and increase collaboration among stakeholders and improve training opportunities in our schools."

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis, according to the statement. Proposals have to show "a well-developed, feasible plan for meeting the needs of homeless children and youth," which includes professional development opportunities for staff, an evaluation plan and collaboration with organizations or public agencies in the community.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act can be accessed by visiting the U.S. Department of Education website: [www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless).

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	<b>Duration:</b>
<b>News 4 @ 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>1:30</b>
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**Date: April 16, 2016**

**Description: Hundreds of kids enjoy 5th annual Explore the Outdoors Day**

Spring is in the air, and as the seasons transition, it's time to get outside and soak it all in.

"There's animals, there's kids can learn things, there's all kinds of things in this park," said Della Richardson, a KNPB volunteer.

The 5th annual Explore the Outdoors Day kicked off Saturday morning at Rancho San Rafael Park. KNPB hosted the free event designed to teach kids everything they need to know about what northern Nevada has to offer.

"We're trying to teach them about nature, to love nature, and to be out," said Richardson. "We have Nature Cat out here with KNPB, and he's teaching them a lot."

Games and activities took the spotlight. From archery to medal detecting and even dissecting flowers, kids learned everything they need to know about the great outdoors heading into the summer season.

"They have the ponies, they have turkeys, they have all kinds of animals here and stuff, and it's teaching them," said Richardson. "They even have a place where you can milk a cow. It's not a real cow, but they can milk that."

Organizations like Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation co-hosted the event. Thanks to all the groups, children not only learned just about nature this year, but how to protect it as well.

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"Especially with our water supply this year, it's so important for the children to learn about water conservation, about the things that grow here, and seeing what the water can do for them," said Richardson.

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<b>News 4 @ 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:20</b>
<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:20</b>

**Date: May 16, 2016**

**Description: University of Nevada celebrates 2016 spring commencement**

The 2016 spring commencement at the University of Nevada, Reno was held on Saturday.

More than 2,700 degrees were awarded. That was an all-time high for the University for a spring commencement. Students, families and faculty packed the university's historic quad for the event. Both undergraduate and graduate degrees were awarded.

"I think anyone who's wanting to get their education should do it. It's a lot of hard work, and it does pay at the end," said Martha Aiyuk, a nurse practitioner graduate.

Congratulations to all of the graduates!

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<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:45</b>

**Date: May 17, 2016**

**Description: SOS Washoe Campaign kicks off in the Biggest Little City**

Today, community leaders are doing their part to raise awareness and make a difference in area schools.

Members with the Coalition to Save Our Schools want voters to say yes to their ballot issue in November. If passed, WC 1 will provide funding for school maintenance and construction in Washoe County.

Voters would be approving a 0.54 percent sales tax, which equals less than \$0.25 a day for the average family.

Organizers say this is an effort that can't be done without the community's help. The campaign kicks off at their headquarters located at #1East Liberty Street in Reno from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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**Date: May 18 & 19, 2016**

**Description: WCSD holding meetings for public input on overcrowded classrooms**

The Washoe County School District is holding town hall meetings to ask for the public's input as they search for a solution to overcrowded classrooms.

Officials say schools in the district are either at full capacity or over capacity. At this time there is also a repair backlog of nearly \$240 million to fix the schools we currently have.

District officials say the only solution to fix the current problems we're facing as a district is to build new schools.

"One thing we're seeing in the Washoe County School District is growth throughout the Truckee Meadows, and it's not one or two schools. We do have schools that are incredibly overcrowded, but really we're facing growth throughout the Truckee Meadows. So we're starting to see a lot of innovative things that schools are doing like classrooms in hallways, retrofit storage rooms into classrooms, and there's only so much of that you can do," WCSD Chief Operating Officer Pete Echart said.

In the next nine years, officials hope to build three new high schools, three middle schools and nine elementary schools.

A list of meeting times and locations can be found on our website.

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**Date: May 19 & 20, 2016**

**Description: First WCSD meeting to address overcrowding draws dozens**

The issue of overcrowding in Washoe County schools was addressed directly by Superintendent Traci Davis Thursday evening at a town hall meeting.

This was the first of five meetings that the entire community is invited to attend.

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Davis along with Pete Etchart, the chief operating officer for the district, presented what the possibilities are for Washoe students and families if additional funding does not come through. Double sessions, which is basically running two schools out of one building, is a huge concern and still a possibility even if funds are made available to build more schools.

"We also understand the length of time it takes to build a school, and there might be a possibility in transition, there could be a possibility that we would have to do double sessions for a year, but our goal is not to have that happen and definitely not to impact our kids long term for double session because we know what impacts that will have," said Davis.

Come November, Washoe County residents will have the opportunity to vote for or against a tax increase that would fund the Washoe County School District.

While the district can't oppose or support a ballot initiative per state law, parents can.

"I'm a community volunteer who really believes this is our moment with that ballot initiative, and I think we need to do something and we need to do something right now because there is not going to be any avoiding these significant problems, and we may have to go to drastic measures in the short term, and I really hate to think of what could happen if we don't actually pass the ballot initiative," said Gretchen Kelley-Bietz, a parent and community volunteer.

There are other community members, though, who say there are other avenues to explore before passing a tax increase.

"There's so many answers, more efficiency, a dysfunctional school board needs to be replaced. There's plenty of alternatives. SB 207 already gives them half the money they need, and it's just a poorly-worded ballot measure that never ends," said Jeff Church, who attended the town hall meeting.

There are tons of opinions and ideas out there, and school district officials want to hear from the community.

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**Date: May 20, 2016**

**Description: TMCC awards more than 1,400 degrees, certificates during commencement**

Truckee Meadows Community College awarded more than 1,400 degrees and certificates at a commencement ceremony Friday morning.

Students ranging from 17 to 68 years old walked across the stage at the Peppermill -- the culmination of years of hard work. A total of 97 veterans received their degrees.

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TMCC officials are proud to say that the graduating class size has more than doubled in the past 10 years.

Congratulations to all of the graduates!

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<b>News 4 @ 11:00 p.m.</b>	<b>:30</b>

**Date: June 14, 2016**

**Description: Elko considers 4-day school week for remote schoolhouses**

A Nevada school district is considering shortening the school week at some rural schools.

The Elko Daily Free Press reports that the Elko County School District Superintendent Jeff Zander says parents from the county's more remote areas have raised concerns about the distance they have to travel to take their kids to school five days a week.

The school board on Tuesday will discuss switching to a four-day school week at its one-room school houses in Mountain Valley, Independence Valley and Ruby Valley. If approved, the district will have to devise a way to measure whether students are receiving the same amount of instruction they would in a five-day week.

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